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HIGHER EDUCATION

WHAT KIND WILL BE MOST USEFUL TO THE NEGRO.

Prof. Kelley Miller Gets the Attention of the Scholars of Massachusetts and Receives a Ringing Endorsement From the Boston Transcript—Should the Negro be Educated at All—Opinions.

There seem to be three distinct and dogmatic theories with respect to the education of the Negro, held by as many classes of people. One is that he should receive as the prize to be at what is known as the higher education; another, that any training which looks to a mental development without manual accomplishments must be worse than wasted, because it gives the black man ideas above his position. Yet a third, which has been more boldly declared of late than previously, is that the Negro is better off with no education at all. This last may be dismissed as simply the rotten fruit of a debased and prejudiced mind. It calls simply for condemnation without consideration.

A recent address by Professor Kelly Miller, of Howard University, which we publish today in another column, is as illuminating a discussion of this somewhat mixed problem as has ever come to our notice. He puts himself outside the narrow limitations to which we have referred, not to uphold a theory but to deal with conditions. He is not quarrelling with those who must work along the lower educational levels, but he nevertheless contends and gives almost unchallengeable reasons not only for the value but the necessity of higher education for the colored race. In this address he has not only made out a very strong case but he has proved in his own life and service the desirableness of that for which he pleads. For Professor Miller is himself a full-blooded Negro. The superior race cannot claim that it has imparted to him any of its own powers and gifts. He represents the influence of culture, moral and spiritual as well as mental, upon one who, to use his own phrase, has been "thrust into the midst of a mighty civilization" and has "escaped the gradual process of evolution."

His fundamental position is that the work of the educated colored man must be largely that of leadership, and "the more ignorant and backward the masses the more skilled and sagacious should the leaders be. But the higher education should be encouraged "because of the moral impotency of all modes of education which do not touch and stir the human spirit." Such words coming from a white man and addressed to white ears would receive their unanimous approval. Their value is even greater when they em-

MEN OF THE HOUR



MR. JOHN W. PATTERSON,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

whose successful management of the Dennis-Cole case has added new lustre to his fame as a lawyer.

body a great truth with a new application as Professor Miller uses them. He holds that the colored people need their own lawyers, educators, physicians and clergymen, and he knows well whereof he is speaking.

"Whenever the higher education of the Negro is broached," he says, "industrial education is always suggested as a counter-irritant. Partisans of rival claims align themselves in hostile array and will not so much as respect the flag of truce." He is in neither camp. He characterizes Booker Washington, the great apostle of industrial training, as "the most influential Negro the race has produced under freedom." Yet "his success is due wholly to his intellectual and moral faculties. Had he been born with palsied hands" but with the same intellectual gifts and powers as now the result would have been the same. No more eloquent and persuasive word has been spoken for the educated leadership of the black race by black men than that which Professor Miller has here given us.—Boston Transcript.

A GREAT VICTORY

ATTORNEY PATTERSON SECURES COLE'S RELEASE

Who was Charged With the Murder of Mrs. Ada Dennis—A Great Legal Battle Between Giants and an Unparallel Case in the District Courts—A Story of the Case and Mr. Patterson's History.

It will be remembered that early on the morning of the tenth day of December, 1901, Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis was found in her bed at her residence on K Street, northwest, brutally murdered. The crime shocked the whole community and the most vigorous and persistent efforts have since been made by the whole enquiry of the police and detective force to locate the murderer, and cause his apprehension. We all know that every effort to accomplish this end has proved abortive and the motive and the identity of the miscreant are still enveloped in profound mystery.

Some arrests were made but nothing was developed and the parties were promptly discharged. Then the police, desperate and chagrined over their failure to make a case took into custody twice, one Richard Cole, who at the time of the sad occurrence was employed by Mrs. Dennis as a porter in her establishment. Nothing having been brought out against him at his first arrest, he was at length set free, but he was again arrested and held by the coroner's jury to await the action of the grand jury. This second arrest without a scintilla of testimony but predicated almost wholly on suspicions, at once aroused the indignation of all the fair-minded of the community and notably of the better class of the colored people, and Richard Cole had, and continues to have their sympathy and substantial support. Realizing that there was no justification for his detention, the family of Richard Cole determined to fight for his release.

Here was their first difficulty. Of course they were told that the victim having been a white woman and every officer of the law, a white man, it would be most prudent and most advantageous to Richard Cole to secure the services of a white lawyer. But the family are certainly to be highly commended for the stand they took in this matter by refusing to employ a white man and insisting that if a colored man could be found who was learned in the law and

MR. WALTER L. COHENS DINED.

Mr. Walter L. Cohens, a federal office holder of New Orleans, La., and one of the most popular leaders in that section spent a few hours in Washington this week, on business. Among the many social functions given in his honor was a terrapin dinner at Grays and Costleys last Tuesday evening. Those present were Gov. P. B. S. Pinchback, Judge R. H. Terrell and E. E. Cooper, of The Colored American. The affair was most recherche.

NEVERTHELESS AND NOTWITHSTANDING.

The press may criticize Editor Cooper of THE COLORED AMERICAN, but he publishes the news and edits one of the best papers that comes out of the Capital.—Kentucky Reporter.

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